

Iowa DNR Forestry Bureau

Fire Program Opportunities

The IDNR Forestry Bureau, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry and other federal, state and local partners, work to provide assistance to the rural volunteer fire departments through a variety of programs and activities in an effort to provide quality fire protection to the state's natural resources.

Programs:

State Fire Assistance (SFA) –Works to protect natural resources from fire on state and private lands through: fire prevention, suppression and fuels management education; training and outreach opportunities.

Wildland Fire Prevention Educational and Program Materials: The IDNR Forestry Bureau, Fire Program is Iowa's source of SMOKEY BEAR materials. SMOKEY BEAR costumes are available for loan. We support a wide range of SMOKEY BEAR promotional items appropriate for Wildfire Prevention Program audiences of all ages. (Examples of items available: coloring pages, activity books, rulers, balloons, stickers, tattoos, posters, pencils, pens, label pins, lesson plans, etc.)

Wildland Fire and Prescribed Fire Training: The IDNR Forestry Bureau has recently hired a Cooperative Fire Specialist who will work to provide wildland fire and prescribed fire training to Natural Resource Managers and Volunteer Fire Department personnel. For additional information, contact Ryan Schlater, Cooperative Fire Specialist at 515-233-1161 or email him at Ryan.Schlater@dnr.state.ia.us.

Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Prevention and Awareness: The IDNR Forestry Bureau, the US Forest Service and a wide range of other federal, state, and local partners are working to encourage homeowners and communities to be proactive in identifying and mitigating situations that may prevent effective fire protection in the rural and wildland-urban interface locations.

Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) – Improves the capability of Iowa's rural volunteer fire departments to protect lives, structures, and natural resources in rural and wildland/urban interface areas.

VFA Grants work to offset the costs of wildland fire equipment and personal safety gear preparedness to existing fire departments and to support the organization of new fire departments in unprotected communities (Grants are 50-50 cost-share – maximum allocation per department is \$3500/year). Grant applications are available at www.iowadnr.com/forestry/fire/.

GSA Federal Supply Service Access: The General Services Administration (GSA) – Federal Supply Service offers wildfire protection equipment and supplies to federal, state and municipal fire agencies and other organizations who operate under formal agreements with the US Forest Service. GSA's objectives are to:

- Provide opportunities for advanced procurement
- Assist in the standardization of wildfire protection equipment and supplies
- Effect savings through consolidated purchasing
- Provide for the direct distribution of items to field units

The IDNR Forestry Bureau as an affiliate of the US Forest Service, through the initiation of a formal memorandum of agreement can assist fire departments in acquiring an activity code that will allow them to make direct purchases of fire fighting gear from the GSA Federal Supply Service. Visit their website at www.GSAAdvantage.gov

You may also request a "Wildfire Protection Equipment and Supplies" catalog by e-mailing your mailing info to gsa.advantage@gsa.gov, by calling me at 515-233-1161 or by contacting GSA directly at 703-305-7359.

Dry Hydrant Grants – The DNR Forestry Bureau, has been providing 50-50% cost-share grants for the establishment of dry hydrants. Grant applications are available at www.iowadnr.com/forestry/fire.html. For more information, contact Ryan Schlater Ryan.Schlater@dnr.state.ia.us or Gail Kantak Gail.Kantak@dnr.state.ia.us at 515-233-1161

Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) – This property is acquired on behalf of the US Forest Service and loaned to state forestry agencies and their cooperators (volunteer fire departments) for their use in providing wildland and rural community fire protection. To obtain available equipment, Fire Departments must enter into a formal Cooperative Agreement with the IDNR Forestry Bureau and the USFS.

Once fire departments obtain the equipment they may paint it and modify it in accordance with safety guidelines. Fire departments bear the cost of transportation, conversion, painting, storage and maintenance. The equipment usually requires some conversion, but the cost is much less than purchase of comparable equipment.

Fire Departments are responsible for making conversions in a safe and timely manner; protecting the equipment from theft, vandalism and weather; painting vehicles in fire service colors; maintaining appropriate liability insurance and returning the equipment, less any added equipment, to the IDNR Forestry Bureau when no longer needed.

Requests for potential pieces of equipment can be made via phone, mail, e-mail or fax. Materials screening is dependent upon materials that have been requested and availability. When making "**WISH LIST**" requests please provide as much detail as possible along with contact person and telephone number(s), mailing address, and e-mail address if available.

Realize that equipment distribution is heavily dependent upon availability!

Contact

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